

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 1-703-872-9306 on May 17, 2004.

Sandra Stocklinski
Name (Print)

Sandra Stocklinski
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Christopher A. MICHALUK)
Application No.: 10/042,549) Examiner: Andrew L. Oltmans
Filed: January 9, 2002) Group Art Unit: 1742
Docket No.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01)) Confirmation No.: 5470

For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Mail Stop After Final
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 17, 2004

Sir:

Applicant hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the decision dated November 17, 2003 of the Examiner finally rejecting the claims, including claims 1-94.

The item(s) checked below are appropriate:

1. A petition for a 3-month extension of time to respond to the Final Rejection is filed herewith.
2. A timely response to the Final Rejection has been filed, as provided in 37 CFR 1.113.
3. Large Entity Fee - \$330.00.
4. Enclosed is a Credit Card Payment Form.
5. Not required (fee paid in prior appeal).
6. Charge all fees and any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0925 (This paper filed in duplicate).

05/19/2004 MGEBREM1 00000120 10042549

01 FC:1401

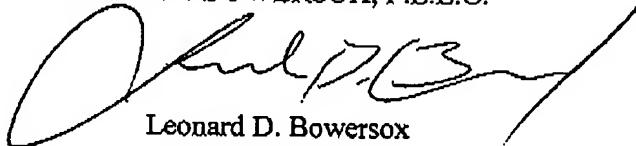
330.00 0P

Notice of Appeal dated May 17, 2004
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/042,549

In the event this Notice of Appeal is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0925, along with any other additional fees which may be required with request to this Notice.

Respectfully submitted,

KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.



Leonard D. Bowersox
Reg. No. 33,226

Atty. Docket No. CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01)
KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
3603-E Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
Tel.: (703) 385-9688
Fax: (703) 385-9719

LAW OFFICES
KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
Intellectual Property Law

LUKE A. KILYK* (PA, DC)
 LEONARD D. BOWERSOX
 ARASH BEHRAVESH* (MA)
 JASBIR SINGH
 MATTHEW T. GILL

53 A East Lee Street
 WARRENTON, VA 20186

FAIRFAX OFFICE
 3603-E Chain Bridge Road
 Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Of Counsel:
 WILLIAM CHARLES JAMISON
 SAMUEL P. BURKHOLDER* (PA, DC, NJ)

TEL.: (540) 428-1701
 FAC.: (540) 428-1720
 (540) 428-1721

Email: fkilyk@kbpatentlaw.com
 Website: <http://www.kbpatentlaw.com>

*Admitted only in states indicated

PLEASE DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE TO OUR WARRENTON OFFICE

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: May 17, 2004

TO: Examiner Andrew L. Oltmans
 Group Art Unit 1742
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/042,549
 For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF
 PRODUCING THE SAME
Our Ref.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01)

FROM: Leonard D. Bowersox, Esq.

FAC. TEL. NO.: 1-703-872-9306



NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 8

Items Attached: Notice of Appeal -- 2 pages, and duplicate (2 pages)
 Petition for a 3-Month Extension of Time -- 1 page
 Fee Transmittal -- 1 page
 Credit Card Payment Form -- 1 page

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 1-703-872-9306 on May 17, 2004.

Sandra Stocklinski
 Name

Sandra Stocklinski
 Signature

RECEIVED
 MAY 19 2004
 OIPE / JCWS

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE IS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED. This message may also be an attorney/client communication which is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by calling us collect and return the original message to us at the above address by mail. Thank you.